

110,000 KILLED BY THE EARTHQUAKE

Worst reports from Southern Italy now fully confirmed--Messina and Reggio wiped out--Soldiers killing looters--Refugees suffering

Latest Wire News About The Horror in South Italy

(Associated Press.)
ROME, Dec. 30.—The immensity of the disaster in southern Italy and Sicily can be measured only by the fact that 110,000 persons perished in Messina and Reggio alone. A score of other towns have been devastated and thousands of victims in these places added to the roll.

Ship loads of fugitives have arrived at Naples and other ports, a vast majority of these injured. Other thousands remain near the ruins of their homes or wander half starved and half naked over the land. Telegraphic communication is now established with Messina and dispatches state nothing remains of the city but a mass of ruins that have been swept by fire. A mere handful of survivors is being cared for by rescuing forces, but their distress is great and has been increased by the recent icy wind that followed a deluge of rain. The destitution is appalling. There is little food and less water. Of Messina's 90,000 population it is believed fully 70,000 perished. Forty thousand people died at Reggio.

King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena are in Messina today. The king explored the ruins regardless of the danger to which he exposed himself. He was loud in his praise of the splendid work accomplished by the Italian, Russian and English blue-jackets, who saved many persons who otherwise would have perished. The queen spent the day in the wards of the improvised hospitals, visiting the wounded. Her majesty often broke into sobs as she listened to the dreadful tales of suffering. The king left tonight for Reggio.

MANY FOREIGNERS MISSING.

Catania, the largest city near the scene of disaster, is crowded with refugees. The sight of the wounded and repetition of real or imaginary earthquakes has so lamed the population they are becoming uncontrollable.

The government is finding difficulty in ascertaining the fate of many foreigners who were in the earthquake zone at the time of the catastrophe. Admiral Makharoff, the Russian commander of a battleship which arrived with fugitives at Naples today, confirms the reported death of the American consul at Messina, Arthur Cheney and wife, who were buried in the consulate.

The number of Americans in Sicily and northern Italy is believed to be small. Several are reported staying at Tormini, thirty miles southwest of Messina, which place reported it did not suffer from the earthquake.

1500 DEAD IN PALMI.

Latest dispatches state the city of Palmi contains 1500 dead and twice as many injured. Two-thirds of the town is laid waste. All the villages adjacent are severely damaged.

The king has telegraphed Premier Gioiello informing him Reggio is in the same awful condition as Messina and announcing a Russian steamer carrying 500 injured will arrive at Naples tomorrow. His majesty asks that preparations be made for their reception at the hospitals and requests that the ship be sent back with all the doctors that can be mustered.

Dispatches from Catania describe Messina as appearing like a huge incandescent furnace. Fire is spreading in the buildings not yet fallen, completing the work of destruction. The strait of Messina is choked with corpses of men and animals. At the ministry of marine word has been received that frightful looting and pillage occurred at Reggio.

TRYING TO LEARN FATE OF AMERICANS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The British consul at Messina is reported injured and his wife and children dead. The ambassador says it is reported that ninety Americans were in the Trinavia hotel at Messina, which is said to be totally destroyed. It is known some of the guests escaped.

Every effort is being made by the state department to obtain news of Americans who were in the earthquake zone in Italy. Ambassador Griscom of Rome was directed to cable promptly any information obtainable and send some of the American vice consuls in Italy to the scene of distress.

1800 CONVICTS KILLED.

At Montecione the local prison collapsed and all prisoners, estimated to number 1800, lost their lives. A group of travelers who were at the railroad station awaiting the arrival of a train were crushed under the debris of the building. All railroad stations in a radius of twelve miles from Reggio are destroyed. At Messina troops and sailors have been obliged to shoot down robbers who persisted in looting. The entire local treasury of the Messina branch of the Bank of Italy, amounting to \$2,000,000, is saved and is aboard an Italian warship.

HEARTRENDING SCENES.

Many people refuse to leave the ruins of their homes. Large numbers in the suburbs of Messina will not come back into the

city for fear of a recurrence of the shocks. Only two members of the municipal council of Messina survived the disaster. A roll call of the Eighty-ninth infantry reveals the fact that there are only ten survivors. A man named Roberto, the sole survivor of his family, became mad with grief at Catania today and suicided.

SAME AS SAN FRANCISCO SHAKE.

NEW HAVEN, Dec. 30.—Professor William Brewster of Yale today stated he believed the earthquake in Sicily is due to the same conditions which caused the San Francisco quake, namely, a fault in the earth's surface. The tidal wave, he thought, was a disturbance of water in the Straits of Messina which caused it to recede and then rush back, temporarily engulfing the land.

AUSTRIA SENDS RELIEF.

VIENNA, Dec. 30.—Emperor Francis Joseph has contributed \$10,000 to the relief of the Italian earthquake sufferers.

GERMANY, TOO.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The Hamburg-American Steamship company's agents here received a cablegram from the general offices at Hamburg stating the company's steamer Illyria will be dispatched from Hamburg January 5 for the purpose of transporting free of charge all donations for the earthquake sufferers that may be collected throughout Germany.

Germany is After Tariff Concessions

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—There are indications that Germany will be among the first European countries to seek advantage of an arrangement with America to secure minimum tariff rates under the terms of the new tariff act which is expected to be passed at the special session of congress, to follow close upon the adjournment of the present regular session March 4 next.

Count Von Bernadotte, the newly-arrived German ambassador, who arranged with Secretary Root for his presentation next Wednesday to President Roosevelt as ambassador, succeeding the late Baron Speck von Sternburg, is believed to have been thoroughly equipped by consultation with the German foreign office and customs officials before his departure from Germany, to undertake this task. Indications are that the new tariff act will be framed to take effect immediately upon its approval by the president.

Therefore, in order to secure whatever advantages may be expected to follow the application of minimum and maximum rates on exports to the United States, it will be necessary for the foreign ambassadors and ministers resident in Washington to have arranged in advance of that date new treaty relations with this government. In the case of some European countries a disposition has been shown to forestall action by the American congress and guard their own export trade with America by considerably increasing their existing tariff rates, with the design of securing the basis of new arrangements with America without sacrificing to any considerable extent the protection which they now enjoy against competition with American exports. So far as is known here, this is not

KAUFMAN DEFEATS J. BARRY

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30.—In the thirty-ninth round of a tame fight, in which neither of the men showed any class, the seconds for Jim Barry threw up the sponge and the decision was given to Al Kaufman. Up to the thirtieth round Barry had the fight won on points, and was the most aggressive, but then he seemed to weaken, and during the closing rounds Kaufman had all the best of the fight. Both men engaged in a good deal of clinching from the start of the fight. In throwing up the sponge for Barry, his manager stated that both of his hands were broken.

CHILDREN CONTRACT

CATTLE DISEASE

ALBANY (N. Y.), Dec. 30.—An expert from the state department of agriculture has been sent to investigate a number of suspected cases of foot and mouth disease among the children in Monroe county.

BANK WAS BLOWN BY YEGGMEN

(By Associated Press.)
MUSKOGEE (Okla.), Dec. 30.—Five robbers dynamited the Bank of Wellston, Oklahoma, east of here today, and after exchanging many shots with the citizens, escaped with \$5000. Robbers, heavily armed rode into Wellston after midnight. They erected a barbed wire barricade around the bank and while some of the gang went to work on the bank safe, others stood guard. The citizens were soon up in arms, and for two hours the robbers protected their comrades. No one is believed to be injured.

GRAFTERS SOON TO BE TRIED

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 30.—Attorneys for the prosecution in the alleged corrupt practices of Pittsburgh councilmen and two former bankers under arrest declare the trials will be urged to a speedy conclusion. District Attorney Blakeley today said he would try to have the cases disposed of before the municipal election in February, at which the councilmen arrested are candidates for re-election. Attorneys for the defendants say that they will be ready to meet the charges at any time.

In connection with the alleged bribing of councilmen by bankers to secure deposits of city funds, it is said the plan followed was to have the banks' New York correspondents forward the amount of the alleged corruption fund to another Pittsburgh bank to the credit of the councilmen negotiating the bribery deal, he to make distribution to the other councilmen. Some of the most wary councilmen operated through safety deposit boxes, but other wrote checks against the fund. It is said a number of these checks will be presented as evidence. This feature, it is said, has been receiving the attention of the federal agents. President Roosevelt, it is believed, has been instrumental in pressing the federal investigations since the first suggestion of irregularities by national bankers reached the department of justice.

In the common council President William Brand made an address in which he denied his guilt and asked to be excused from serving as presiding officer until after the courts had disposed of his case. He asked that Samuel McElroy, who was president

of the Allegheny common council prior to consolidation, be made president pro tempore.

Mr. McElroy consented to occupy the chair for one session.

PISTOLS WERE NOT LOADED

(By Associated Press.)
SANTA CRUZ, Dec. 30.—In a mock duel with revolvers at Ben Lomond last night, Thomas N. Ritchie of Oakland, was shot dead by Irving Cockerott, also of Oakland, a lifelong friend of the dead man. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict that the shooting was accidental and exonerated Cockerott.

FINCH IS CON- VICTED BY JURY

(By Associated Press.)
PORTLAND (Ore.), Dec. 30.—James A. Finch, the slayer of Ralph B. Fisher, late prosecutor for the State Bar association, was convicted of murder in the first degree late this afternoon after twenty-eight minutes deliberation by the jury. Sentence will be pronounced Saturday morning.

SILVER GOES OVER FIFTY.
NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Silver, 50 1-8; lead, dull, 4.10 @ 4.15; copper, steady, 14.37 1/2 @ 14.50.